

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-04 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 AF-08

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJ: 19TH UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE: ITEM 16, DOCUMENT 19 C/5, CHAPTER

6 -

SECTOR FOR COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS

### 1. SUMMARY.

A. FURTHER DECENTRALIZATION OF UNESCO'S ACTIVITIES AND STRUCTURE EMERGED AS DOMINANT THEME IN CONSIDERATION BY PROGRAM COMMISSION III OF CHAPTER 6 OF 19 C/T. THERE WAS GROUND SWELL SUPPORT OF VIEWS THAT DG SHOULD FURTHER DECENTRALIZE ACTIVITIES IN EFFORT TO IMPROVE UNESCO'S EFFICIENCY IN USE OF RESOURCES AND RELEVANCY TO MEMBER STATES.

MOVES TOWARDS FURTHER DECENTRALIZATION WAS ONLY OPPOSED STRONGLY BY EASTERN EUROPEAN BLOC, TOGO AND BRAZIL AND WEAKLY BY EGYPT AND JAMAICA.

B. SECONDARY THEME RUNNING THROUGH MANY INTERVENTIONS WAS ISSUE OF NGO'S BECOMING MORE INVOLVED IN FORMULATION, EXECUTION AND EVALUATION OF UNESCO'S ACTIVITIES. THIS WAS STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY WESTERN EUROPEANS, U.S., PHILIPPINES, COLOMBIA AND HAITI. THIS WAS STRONGLY OPPOSED BY EASTERN EUROPEAN BLOC, BENIN, NIGER AND CONGO.

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C. MOST SPEAKERS WERE COMPLEMENTARY OF DG'S CREATION OF NEX CPX SECTOR, FEELING THIS WAS BIG IMPROVEMENT OVER UNESCO'S PAST APPROACH TO OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES. HOWEVER, NEWNESS AND EXPERIMENTAL NATURE OF CPX WAS RECOGNIZED. SEVERAL SPEAKERS STRESSED NEED TO KEEP OPERATIONS CLOSELY LINKED WITH INTELLECT CAPACITIES. SPEAKERS GENERALLY LIKED THE COUNTRY FOCUS AND ORGANIZATION OF CPX.

D. INDIA INTRODUCED DR SUGGESTING AREAS WHERE DG COULD FURTHER DECENTRALIZE. AMENDMENTS ON DECENTRALIZATION LANGUAGE WERE OFFERED BY U.S., FRANCE, COLOMBIA, BULGARIA AND BYELORUSSIA. THESE WERE ACCEPTED. AMENDMENTS OF BRAZIL, EGYPT AND ZAIRE TO HOLD BACK ON DECENTRALIZATION WERE DEFEATED. PROPOSALS BY BENIN, NIGER AND ROMANIA TO ELIMINATE REFERENCE TO NGO'S FOR CONSIDERATION FOR PROJECT EXECUTION WERE REJECTED. END SUMMARY.

2. PROGRAM COMMISSION III CONSIDERED CHAPTER 6 AND 6A OF 19 C/5 OCTOBER 29 AND 30, COVERING BUDGET, RESOLUTIONS AND WORK PLAN FOR CPX SECTOR. COMMISSION DEBATED SECTIONS 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.5, 6.6 AND CHAPTER 6A. COMMISSION ALSO CONSIDERED DR 54 SUBMITTED BY INDIA CONTAINING RECOMMENDATION FOR FURTHER DECENTRALIZATION OF UNESCO'S ACTIVITIES AND ORGANIZATION.

3. CPX COMBINES FUNCTIONS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT INTO ONE. IT RELATES TO MEMBER STATES, PROVIDES OPERATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES TO UNESCO'S FIELD ACTIVITIES, COOPERATES WITH NATIONAL COMMISSIONS AND NGO'S; COORDINATES WITH RES OF UN SYSTEM, MAINTAINS CONTACT WITH MAJOR MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL AID DONORS, ESPECIALLY UNDP, AND OVERSEES UNESCO'S PARTICIPATION PROGRAM. CPX WAS PART OF M'BOW'S CHANGES TO STRUCTURE OF UNESCO. IT CONSIDERABLY UPGRADED ATTENTION GIVEN TO OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES. IS GENERALLY FELT TO BE LARGE IMPROVEMENT OVER FORMER OFFICE OF RELATIONS WITH MEMBER STATES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. ADG IS NAJMAN AND DEPUTY ADG IS KABORE. BOTH OF THESE ARE AMONG M'BOW'S CLOSEST ADVISERS.

4. COMMISSION POSTPONED CONSIDERING RESOLUTION 6.11 IN CHAPTER 6 UNTIL EUROPEAN MEMBERS COULD CAUCUS ON DR 102 SUBMITTED BY ROMANIA TO RELATE CSCE TO ACTIVITIES IN SECTION 6.1. COMMISSION UNCLASSIFIED

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APPROVED WITHOUT VOTES CHAPTER 6 RESOLUTIONS 6.21, 6.31 AND 6.51. CANADA CALLED FOR VOTE ON RESOLUTION 6.71 IN CHAPTER 6A. RESOLUTION 6.71 APPROVED 51 FOR (DEVELOPING COUNTRIES), 2 AGAINST (CANADA AND BULGARIA) AND 11 ABSTENTIONS (EAS AND WEST EUROPEANS AND U.S.).

5. DR 54 CALLING FOR GREATER DECENTRALIZATION, ORIGINALLY SUBMITTED BY INDIA. AMENDMENTS OFFERED BY U.S., FRANCE, COLOMBIA,

BULGARIA AND BYELORUSSIAN SSR. AMENDED DR 54 PASSED BY 67 FOR (U.S. INCLUDED), NONE AGAINST, AND 6 ABSTENTIONS (BRAZIL, BENIN, AUSTRALIA, TOGO, NORWAY). RESOLUTION AS FINALLY APPROVED, SUBJECT TO POSSIBLE TRANSLATION REFINEMENTS IS QUOTE:

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE,

RECALLING THE WIDESPREAD DESIRE FOR ADDITIONAL STEPS  
TOWARDS DECENTRALIZATION TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN UNESCO,

RECOMMENDS TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL THAT

1. UNESCO ACTIVITIES BE INCREASINGLY ENTRUSTED FOR  
FORMULATION, IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION TO THE MEMBER STATES,  
NATIONAL COMMISSIONS, AND WHEN APPROPRIATE TO COMPETENT NON-  
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF  
UNESCO'S CONSTITUTION AND FOLLOWING THE RULES GOVERNING UNESCO'S  
RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS.

2. MORE STAFF BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE HEADQUARTERS TO REGIONAL  
OFFICES;

3. THE REGIONAL OFFICES AND CENTERS BE GIVEN ADEQUATE  
RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITY WITHIN THEIR COMPETENCE, TO TAKE  
DECISIONS ON UNESCO'S PROGRAMS BY DELEGATING TO THEM ADDITIONAL  
POWERS, BOTH FOR REGULAR BUDGET AND EXTRA-BUDGETARY PROJECTS AND  
ACTIVITIES;

4. FOR THE SELECTION OF EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS FOR UNESCO  
PROJECTS IN A REGION, PRIORITY USE BE MADE OF EXPERTS AVAILABLE  
IN THE REGION ITSELF. END QUOTE.

6. COMMENT.

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A. MEMBER STATES ARE SENDING A LOUD AND CLEAR MESSAGE TO

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INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-04 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 AF-08

ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 /089 W

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SECRETARIAT AT 19TH GC, AS THEY DID AT 18TH GC, THAT UNESCO'S HIGHLY CENTRALIZED AND HEADQUARTERS ORIENTED APPROACH SHOULD BE CHANGED. THIS VIEW STRONGLY HELD BY MOST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, GENERALLY SUPPORTED BY WESTERN INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, AND OPPOSED BY EASTERN EUROPEAN BLOC.

B. THOSE ADVOCATING MORE DECENTRALIZATION BASE THEIR ARGUMENTS ON NEED FOR GREATER SPEED AND EFFICIENCY OF EXECUTION, NEED FOR GREATER FLEXIBILITY, ADAPTATION AND RELEVANCE OF PROJECTS TO COUNTRY'S SPECIAL SITUATIONS, AND NEED FOR GREATER INPUT FROM STAFF OF REGIONAL OFFICES WHO LIKELY TO HAVE GREATER KNOWLEDGE OF LOCAL CONDITIONS AND COUNTRIES NEEDS THAN HEADQUARTERS STAFF.

C. DG M'BOW HAS MOVED MUCH MORE QUICKLY AND FURTHER TOWARDS DECENTRALIZATION THAN HIS PREDESSOR. HOWEVER, UNESCO STILL REMAINS PROBABLY THE MOST CENTRALIZED OF THE MAJOR AGENCIES IN UN FAMILY.

D. MEMBER STATES, AND ESPECIALLY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE GROWING INCREASINGLY RESTIVE AT UNESCO'S DEGREE OF CENTRALIZATION. U.S. PERMDEL MEMBER IN VISITS TO SOME 21 COUNTRIES IN LAST THREE YEARS HAS ALSO NOTED RATHER WIDESPREAD DISSATISFACTION OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO HIGH CONCENTRATION OF DECISION-MAKING IN PARIS ON UNCLASSIFIED

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PART OF UNESCO PROJECTS.

E. REGIONAL OFFICES ARE LARGE AND GROWING IN STAFF AND BUDGET. EACH OF THEM CONTAIN SOME COMPETENT PROFESSIONALS KNOWLEDGEABLE OF THEIR REGIONS. YET THESE OFFICES HAVE LITTLE OR NO INPUT TO FORMULATION OF PROGRAM. THEY HAVE SOMETIMES BEEN ASSIGNED EXECUTION RESPONSIBILITY FOR PORTIONS OF REGULAR BUDGET PROGRAMS.

THEY HAVE HAD LITTLE OR NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR EXTRA-BUDGETARY PROJECTS, AND MINIMAL EVALUATION OR ASSESSMENT RESPONSIBILITY.

F. THE DECENTRALIZATION RESOLUTION APPROVED BY COMMISSION III ADDRESSES TWO ASPECTS. PARAGRAPH 1 SUGGESTS THAT MEMBER STATES, NATIONAL COMMISSIONS AND NGO'S SHOULD BE INVOLVED NOT ONLY WITH FORMULATION OF PROGRAMS WHICH THEY ALREADY ARE TO A CERTAIN EXTENT, BUT ALSO INCREASINGLY WITH EXECUTION AND EVALUATION OF UNESCO ACTIVITIES. INDIA, THE ORIGINAL DRAFTER OF DR 54 WAS ONLY CONCERNED AT GETTING MEMBER STATES AND NATIONAL COMMISSIONS MORE INVOLVED IN THESE ROLES. FRANCE, COLOMBIA, HOLLAND, U.S., PHILLIPINES AND OTHERS, PUSHED HARD TO GET NGO'S INVOLVED OVER STRONG OPPOSITION OF SOME STATES, ESPECIALLY BENIN, AND DISTAST OF SOVIETS AND ALLIES TO NGO'S. A FEW AFRICAN COUNTRIES (BENIN, NIGER, CONGO, CAR) WANTED TO ELIMINATE REFERENCE TO BOTH NGO'S AND MEMBER STATES AND SEE ONLY NATIONAL COMMISSIONS GETTING MORE INVOLVED IN EXECUTION OF PROJECTS. SECRETARIAT WASN NOT TOO HAPPY WITH PARAGRAPH 1. NAJMAN FELT IT WENT A BIT FURTHER THAN HAD BEEN VISUALIZED IN 19 C/TM HOWEVER, PARA 1 PUTS TEETH INTO SOME STATEMENTS OF POLICY AND INTENT THAT DG HAS BEEN MAKING SO IT WAS HARD FOR SECRETARIAT TO OPPOSE IT TOO STRONGLY. ALSO, THERE WAS SUCH OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FROM MEMBER STATES IN COMMISSION III THAT NAJMAN COULD NOT OPENLY RESIST LANDSLIDE VIEWS.

G. PARAGRAPHS 2, 3 AND 4 OF APPROVED DR ADDRESS GREATER NEED FOR ORGANIZATIONAL AND DECISION-MAKING SHIFT FROM HEADQUARTERS TO REGIONAL OFFICES AND CENTERS. EXCEPT FOR EASTERN BLOC THERE WAS NO OPPOSITION TO THESE PARAGRAPHS. SECRETARIAT ALSO ACCEPTED THE U.S. ADDED LANGUAGE CALLING FOR GREATER DECISION-MAKING POWER BOTH FOR REGULAR AND EXTR-BUDGETARY PROJECTS, ALTHOUGH WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO HAVE THIS APPLY ONLY TO REGULAR BUDGET PROJECTS. HOWEVER, U.S. AMENDMENT HAD OVERWHELMING SUPPORT

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FROM MEMBER STATES AND ESPECIALLY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

H. THIS RESOLUTION DOES NOT FORCE THE DG TO DO DNYTHING WHICH HE DOESN'T WANT TO DO. IT IS SOMETHING LIKE A QUOTE SENSE OF CONGRESS UNQUOTE TYPE OF RESOLUTION WHICH ENCOURAGES THE DG TO MOVE MORE QUICKLY TO DECENTRALIZE THAN PERHAPS MANY BUREAUCRATS AT HEADQUARTERS WOULD PREFER.

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## Message Attributes

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